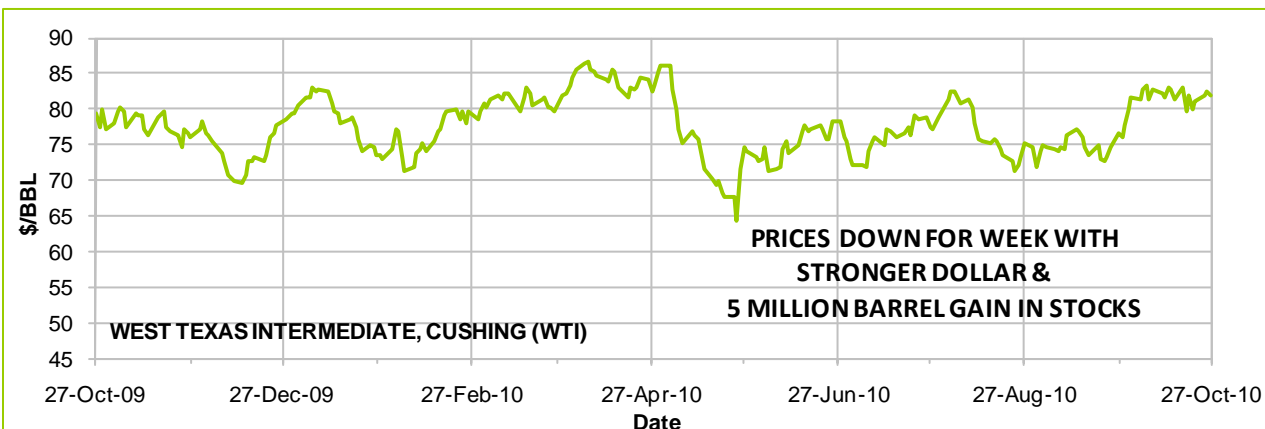


## Crude Oil



Crude inventories rose by 5.0 million barrels this week as a 0.1% increase in production and a 10% surge in imports offset the 1.2% increase in crude flowing to refineries. The 5 million barrel gain was more than 4 times the expected increase of only 1.2 million and in sharp contrast to the 5-year average decline of 29,000 barrels for the time period. Inventories have improved to 7.8% above last year and 13.3% above the 5-year average. Inventories are at their highest level ever for this date.

Prices were down slightly this week and they fell by more than a dollar over the past 2 weeks as the dollar strengthened and the already record high inventories grew by another 5 million barrels. Spot prices and futures prices fell by 2 and 3 cents for the week. The spot price settled at \$81.88, only \$2.46 (3.1%) higher than a year ago. Futures prices were at \$84.52, \$2.34 (2.9%) higher than last year. Both prices are about 43% below their 2008 peak prices.

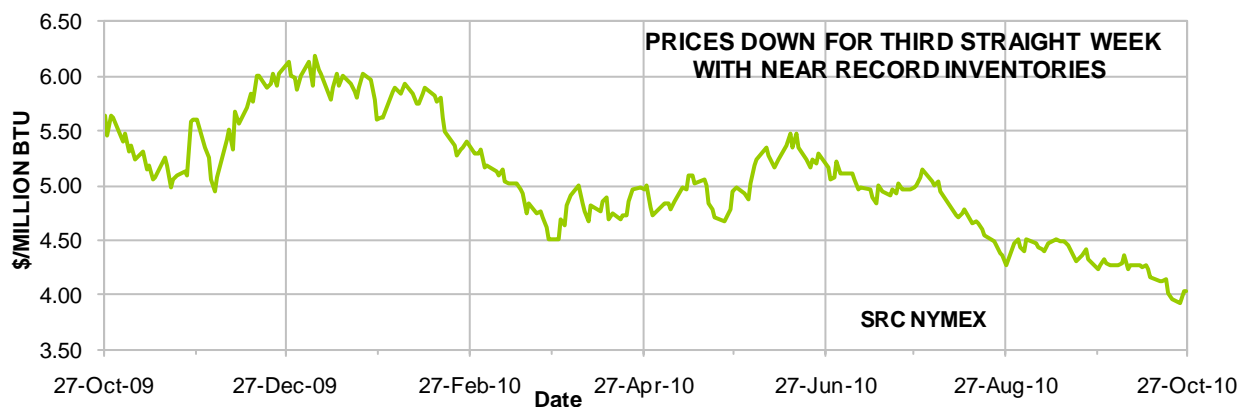


## Natural gas



Inventories grew this week by 71 BCF, the third consecutive week of record high growth. The 71 BCF was equal to the expected gain and 58% above the 5-year average gain of 45 BCF. Over the past 32 weeks inventories have grown by 2,139 BCF, 12.6% higher than the normal gain of 1,900 BCF. At 3,754 BCF, this week's inventory level is 9.1% above the 5-year average and is virtually equal to last year's record high of 3,755 BCF.

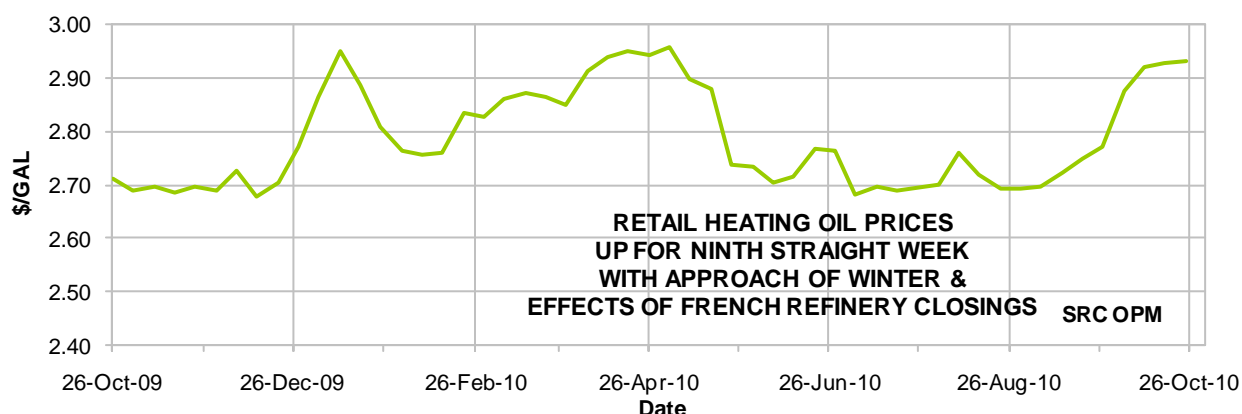
Futures and spot prices fell by about \$0.10 per million BTU this past week with mild weather, no hurricane threats, weak industrial demand, and near record inventories. Futures prices have fallen by \$1.016 over the past 12 weeks. At \$4.024, they are 28.6% lower than a year ago and 69.8% below their 2008 peak. They are at 8 year lows. Spot prices have fallen by \$1.40 over the past 12 weeks. At \$3.380 per million BTU, they are 25.1% lower than a year ago and 74.6% below their 2008 peak price. They are at their lowest levels in almost a year.





Distillate stocks fell by 1.6 million barrels this week compared to an anticipated decline of 1.5 million and a 5-year average decline of 0.7 million. Despite the decline, stocks are 0.2% above last year and are still at a record high for this date, 21.5% above the five-year average.

Prices have been following crude. The 12 month strip fell by 6.4 cents the past 3 weeks after rising by 30.2 cents over the previous six. It is now at \$2.294/gal, 13.6 cents (6.3%) higher than a year ago. The spot price fell by 6.3 cents over the past 3 weeks after rising by 32.2 cents over the previous six. At \$2.22 /gal, it is 18.7 cents (9.2%) above last year. Prices are 45% below their 2008 peaks. Retail prices rose by 0.1 cents this week and by 23.7 cents over the past 9 weeks. Retail prices are now at \$2.930/gal, 21.7 cents (8.0%) above a year ago but \$1.837 (38.5%) below their 2008 peak price. The highest price in this week's survey was \$3.499 and the lowest was \$2.629. According to census data, 49.1% of dwelling units in Connecticut heat with oil.



## Connecticut Regional Heating Oil Prices

	FAIRFIELD			HARTFORD			NEW LONDON		
	AVG	HIGH	LOW	AVG	HIGH	LOW	AVG	HIGH	LOW
26-Oct-09	2.767	3.099	2.500	2.720	2.999	2.549	2.779	2.950	2.559
11-Oct-10	3.046	3.499	2.690	2.918	3.199	2.699	2.916	3.100	2.720
18-Oct-10	3.052	3.499	2.640	2.930	3.199	2.649	2.911	3.070	2.720
25-Oct-10	3.055	3.499	2.640	2.935	3.199	2.749	2.900	3.000	2.720
	LITCHFIELD			MIDDLESEX			TOLLAND-WINDHAM		
	AVG	HIGH	LOW	AVG	HIGH	LOW	AVG	HIGH	LOW
26-Oct-09	2.733	2.849	2.589	2.726	2.799	2.600	2.668	2.779	2.549
11-Oct-10	2.911	2.979	2.849	2.959	3.129	2.810	2.871	2.999	2.749
18-Oct-10	2.931	2.999	2.799	2.956	3.149	2.810	2.883	2.999	2.749
25-Oct-10	2.897	2.999	2.779	2.972	3.129	2.810	2.879	2.969	2.749
	NEW HAVEN								
	AVG	HIGH	LOW						
26-Oct-09	2.646	2.899	2.330						
11-Oct-10	2.832	3.049	2.599						
18-Oct-10	2.845	3.040	2.659						
25-Oct-10	2.848	3.049	2.629						

OPM conducts a weekly survey of retail heating oil prices in Connecticut. These figures reference the most recent results of that survey for the reporting week beginning October 25, 2010. Figures reflect per gallon prices without discount.

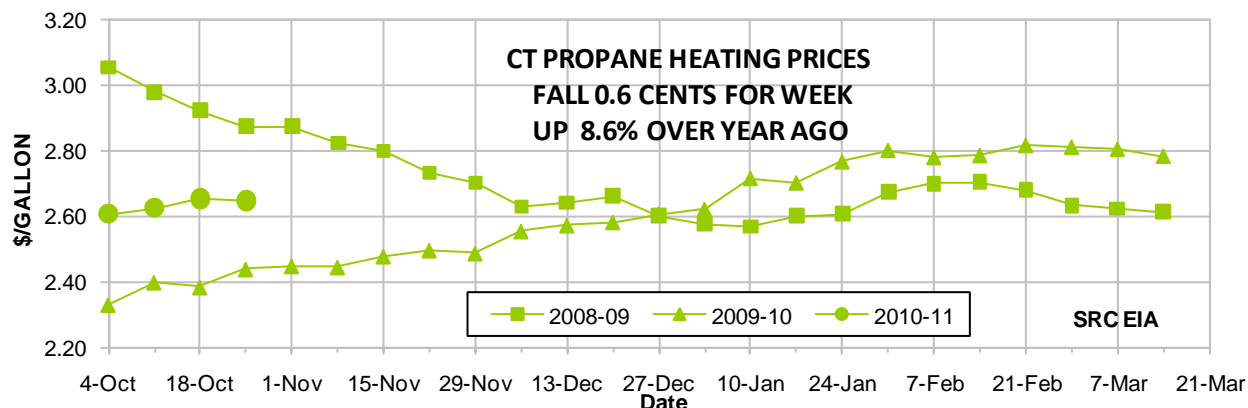
For more information, see [www.ct.gov/OPM](http://www.ct.gov/OPM) > Energy Management > Energy Price and Supply Information

# Propane



After falling by 0.7 million barrels last week, propane inventories reversed direction and grew by 0.7 million barrels this week. This compares to a 5-year average gain for this week of only 0.05 million. Current storage levels now trail last year's levels by 9.6% and inventories have improved to only 3.6% below the 5-year average.

Spot propane prices generally track crude oil prices. They rose by 3.9 cents this week after falling by 8.7 cents over the previous 2 weeks. At \$1.084 per gallon yesterday, spot prices were 13.9 cents (12.8%) higher than a year ago but 38.2% lower than their peak 2008 price. The average Connecticut retail price for home heating was \$2.649/gal in this week's survey. This is 0.6 cents lower than last week and 21.1 cents (8.6%) higher than a year ago. According to census data, propane is used to heat 2.7% of homes in Connecticut.



# Gasoline



Gasoline inventories fell by 4.4 million barrels this past week compared to an expected gain of 0.6 million and a 5-year average decline of 0.5 million barrels. Inventories levels are 3.2% above last year and are 7.4% above the 5-year average. Despite this week's sharp decline, stocks remain at their highest level ever for this date.

Futures prices rose by 0.1 cent/gal this week after falling by 5.8 cents over the previous 2 weeks. At \$2.181/gal, futures prices are only 3.3 cents (1.5%) higher than last year. At \$2.117/gal, the spot price fell by 7 cents this week and is only 2.0 cents (0.9%) higher than a year ago. Futures prices and spot prices are 39.6% and 37.9% below their 2008 peaks. Retail prices have been rising from earlier increases in crude prices. They rose by 0.1 cents this week and by 20.7 cents over the past 5 weeks. At \$2.999/gal, retail prices are 20.3 cents (7.3%) higher than a year ago but they are 31.7% (\$1.391) below 2008's peak.

